

CONTRIBUTIONS TO A KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARACHNIDAN FAUNA OF AUSTRALIA. No. 1.

BY W. J. RAINBOW.

(ENTOMOLOGIST TO THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM).

(Plate XLIX., figs. 4, 4a, 4b.)

In this series of papers it is my intention from time to time to work out such material as could not well be considered or studied under the same headings as those papers already published by me. In the first instance, the title restricted me solely to the *Araneida*, and in the second place confined my attentions, so far as descriptions were concerned, to New South Wales. The title of the new series will, therefore, give me a much wider field, both from a zoological and geographical point of view, and enable me to record species and discuss questions appertaining to other groups, such as scorpions, pseudo-scorpions, &c., but also of *Araneide* from other Australian colonies than New South Wales. The present paper contains a description of a new species of *Buthus*; this was one of a collection of *Arachnida* obtained by Mr. Ogilby during a visit to Cooma about twelve months ago, and which that gentleman handed over to me shortly after his return to Sydney.

Order SCORPIONIDÆ.

Family ANDROCTONIDÆ.

Sub-family ANDROCTONINI.

Genus BUTHUS, Leach.

BUTHUS FLAVICRURIS, sp. nov.

(Plate XLIX., figs. 4, 4a, 4b.)

Colour: yellowish-brown above and laterally, pale yellowish underneath; palpi yellow-brown; tail yellow-brown above, laterally, and beneath; aculeus glossy, yellow-brown at base,

deepening to dark brown at ultimate extremity; eyes dark brown; legs yellow.

Cephalothorax strongly arched, glossy, rather longer than broad, narrowest in front; anterior margin strongly indented; a deep longitudinal groove runs down the centre from anterior to posterior extremity, and separates the median eyes; these latter are seated on dark brown tubercles; the surface is smooth above, and has but few punctures; the sides are rather thickly furnished with minute granules; near the posterior extremity there are deep lateral compressions and grooves, and the minute darkish granules produce rather a dull tint; a few very fine yellowish hairs fringe the anterior extremity. *Marginal band* narrow and free from hairs.

Tergites keeled in the median line, minutely granulated, and fringed with a few short yellowish hairs; the final tergite is also keeled both above and laterally, the lateral keels seated low down.

Sternites glossy, with deep median and lateral depressions and minute punctures; the final sternite keeled laterally.

Tail long, glossy, almost parallel-sided, the segments deeply grooved, and strongly keeled and granulated laterally; sides and inferior surface strongly keeled and granulated; the segments vary in length, each succeeding one being longer than its predecessor, and the final one much the longest of any; each segment sparingly fringed laterally and underneath with rather long and fine yellowish hairs. *Vesicle* flat and glossy above, strongly arched, keeled and grooved laterally, the keels granulated; inferior surface sparingly furnished with yellow hairs, strongly keeled and grooved, the keels granulated. *Aculeus* moderately long and strong, gently incurved; *vesicle* and *aculeus* taken together are considerably shorter than the fifth caudal segment.

Legs yellow, sparingly clothed with long yellow hairs; femora and trochanters firmly keeled and granulated underneath; tibiæ, metatarsi, and tarsi armed with short strong spines.

Palpi long, powerful, fringed with short yellowish hairs; superior surface of humerus, brachium, and manus keeled and

granulated; of these the first two joints are much more strongly granulated than the latter; lower surface keeled and granulated laterally; the back of humerus and brachium moderately so; humerus keeled laterally on inner side, sparingly granulated in the median line; brachium granulated laterally, deeply grooved down the middle; manus thick, moderately long, powerful, keeled and granulated underneath; hand-back keeled, broad, moderately granulated; fringes short, powerful, incurved, the keels and granules giving them a somewhat darker appearance than the hand; movable finger somewhat the longest.

Pectines long, somewhat tapering, and furnished with 16 teeth.

Measurements (in millimeters):—Total length, 52; length of cephalothorax 6, width in front 3, behind 5; length of tail, $27\frac{1}{2}$ —first segment 3, second $3\frac{1}{2}$, third 4, fourth 5, fifth 6, vesicle and aculeus 5; length of humerus 5; of brachium 5; hand, 6; hand-back, 6; movable finger, $4\frac{1}{2}$; width of humerus, 2; of brachium $2\frac{1}{2}$, of hand (at base) 4, at apex 3; of hand-back, 3.

Hab.—Cooma.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

Fig. 4. — *Buthus flavicruris*.

Fig. 4a.— ,, ,, tail, profile.

Fig. 4b.— ,, ,, first and second caudal segments, ventral surface.